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Robert F. Simon

Robert Frank Simon (December 2, 1908 – November 29, 1992)[1] was an American character actor.

Earlier years

Simon began acting with Mansfield's Community Players organization when he worked as a clerk in a meat market. Following that experience, he acted with the Cleveland Playhouse.[2]

Theater

Simon appeared on Broadway in Clifford Odets's play, *Clash by Night*. In 1949, he succeeded Lee J. Cobb as Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*. His other Broadway credits included *Of Thee I Sing* (1952), *Sundown Beach* (1948), *On Whitman Avenue* (1946), *Truckline Cafe* (1946), *Brighten the Corner* (1945), *Mrs. January and Mr. X* (1944), *Apology* (1943), and *The Russian People* (1942).[3]

Film and TV

1950s–1970s

Simon began working in films and on television after he moved to Los Angeles in 1954.[4]

In 1955, he appeared on television in episodes of *Medic* and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* as well as such feature films as *Chief Crazy Horse*, *Seven Angry Men*, and *The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell*.

In 1956 and 1957, he appeared in episodes of *State Trooper*, *The Millionaire* and *M Squad*. In 1957, he appeared in the Betty Hutton film *Spring Reunion*, and as George Nordmann in the feature film *Edge of the City*, starring John Cassavetes and Sidney Poitier. In 1958, Simon guest-starred as Captain Woods in "The Coward of Fort Bennett" on *General Electric Theater*. In 1957 and 1958, he appeared in four episodes of the anthology

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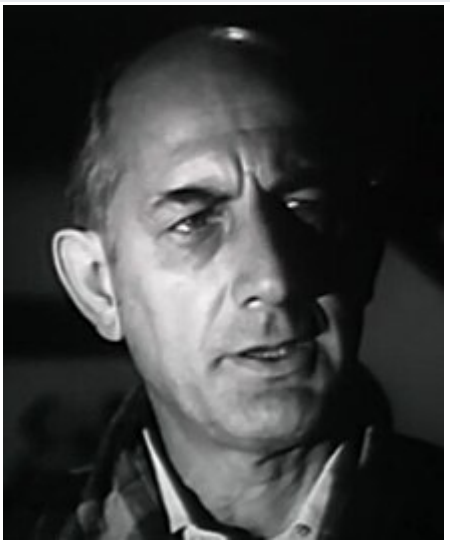

Simon in an episode of *Lock-Up* (1960)

Born	Robert Frank Simon December 2, 1908
Died	November 29, 1992 (aged 83) Tarzana, Los Angeles, California, U.S.
Occupation	Actor
Years active	1950–1985
Known for	The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance · Edge of the City · The Amazing Spider-Man
Spouse	Barbara Them (m. 1940; died 1974)
Children	4

series, *Playhouse 90*. In 1959, he appeared on *Peter Gunn* and *Adventures in Paradise*. His other 1950s film credits included appearances in *The Buccaneer* (1958), *Compulsion* (1959), *The Last Angry Man* (1959) and *Operation Petticoat* (1959).

Westerns

From 1956 to 1970, Simon appeared in *Broken Arrow*, *Disneyland*, *Dick Powell's Zane Grey Theater*, *Laramie*, *Black Saddle*, *Law of the Plainsman*, *Johnny Ringo*, *Cheyenne*, and *The Dakotas*, *Wichita Town*, *The Man From Blackhawk*, *The Texan*, *Tombstone Territory*, *Tate*, and *Shotgun Slade*, *Stagecoach West*, *Bat Masterson*, *Lawman*, *Klondike*, and *Frontier Circus*, *Have Gun - Will Travel*, *Wagon Train*, *The Legend of Jesse James*, *The Road West*, *Gunsmoke* ("Cheap Labor"-S2E32, "Potato Road"-S3E5, “Father’s Love” - S9E24 & "The Mission" - S12E4), *Laredo*, *The Virginian*, *Bonanza*, and *The Guns of Will Sonnett*. He portrayed Sheriff Morgan on *Elfego Baca*[5]:303 and General Alfred Terry on *Custer*.[5]:593

In 1962, Simon played Mackie in the episode "House of the Hunter" on CBS's *Rawhide*. The same year he also portrayed Handy Strong in the feature film *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*.

Drama

Simon portrayed Dave Tobak on *Saints and Sinners*.[5]:923 He also appeared in such programs as *Crusader*, *Route 66*, *Dante*, *The DuPont Show with June Allyson*, *Johnny Midnight*, *Straightaway*, *The Roaring 20s*, *Sea Hunt* and *State Trooper*. In 1961 and 1962, he guest starred on episodes of *Ripcord*, *The Dick Powell Show*, *The Lloyd Bridges Show*, *Cain's Hundred* and *Sam Benedict*. In the controversial 1962 episode "The Benefactor" of the legal drama *The Defenders*, Simon played an unrepentant abortion care provider who uses his trial to argue for a change in the law. In 1966, he played Nazi officer Colonel Beckman in *The Rat Patrol* episode "The Exhibit A Raid".

Simon guest-starred three times on *Perry Mason*, including the role of murderer Edward Bannister in the 1958 episode, "The Case of the Desperate Daughter." Simon appeared as Harvey, friend of the main character Paul Driscoll in the 1963 *The Twilight Zone* episode "No Time Like the Past". In 1965, he appeared in episodes of *Slattery's People*, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*, and *Dr. Kildare*.

During the 1960s, Simon performed as well in dramatic roles in several films, such as *The Spiral Road* (1962), *Captain Newman, M.D.* (1963), and *Fate Is the Hunter* (1964). In 1966, he starred too as Mr. Rellik in the Highway Safety Films' production *The Third Killer*. His role was that of a "Death" salesman charged with three accounts, including traffic fatalities.

Comedy

Simon portrayed Frank Stephens on *Bewitched*[5]:96-97 and Everett McPherson on *Nancy*,[5]:741 He also appeared in other sitcoms, such as *Ichabod and Me*, *McHale's Navy*, *Mrs. G. Goes to College*, *Get Smart*, and *The Andy Griffith Show*.

He appeared in *A New Kind of Love* (1963) starring Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, as "Cervantes" in *The Reluctant Astronaut* (1967), and as a doctor in *Private Duty Nurses* (1971). He appeared in a 1970 episode of *Love, American Style*, in a 1971 episode of *Nichols*, starring James Garner, and a 1973 episode

of *The Partridge Family*. In 1973, he made three guest appearances as General Maynard M. Mitchell on *M*A*S*H*.

Later roles

From 1969 to 1985, Simon appeared in *Marcus Welby, M.D.*, *The Mod Squad*, *The Interns*, *Barnaby Jones*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *Police Woman*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *Cannon*, *Ellery Queen*, *M*A*S*H*, *Columbo*, *McCloud*, *McMillan & Wife*, *Quincy M.E.*, *Eight Is Enough*, and *The Feather & Father Gang*. He had a recurring role as Captain Rudy Olsen on *The Streets of San Francisco* and portrayed J. Jonah Jameson on *The Amazing Spider-Man* (1978-1979).[5] His last television appearance was in a 1985 episode of *Airwolf*.

Personal life

Simon was married to Barbara Them, a Mansfield native. They had four children.[2]

Death

Simon died of a heart attack in Tarzana, California on November 29, 1992.[6]

Partial filmography

- *Where the Sidewalk Ends* (1950) - Inspector Nicholas Foley (uncredited)
- *Bright Victory* (1951) - Psychiatrist
- *Roogie's Bump* (1954) - Boxi
- *The Black Dakotas* (1954) - U.S. Marshal Whit Collins
- *Rogue Cop* (1954) - Ackerman
- *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* (1955) (Season 1 Episode 11: "Guilty Witness") - Sergeant Halloran
- *Seven Angry Men* (1955) - Colonel Lewis Washington
- *Chief Crazy Horse* (1955) - Jeff Mantz
- *5 Against the House* (1955) - Old Guard (uncredited)
- *Foxfire* (1955) - Ernest Tyson
- *The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing* (1955) - Stage Manager
- *The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell* (1955) - Admiral Gage
- *The Benny Goodman Story* (1956) - Papa Dave Goodman
- *Never Say Goodbye* (1956) - Dr. Kenneth Evans
- *The Catered Affair* (1956) - Mr. Joe Halloran
- *Bigger Than Life* (1956) - Dr. Norton
- *The First Traveling Saleslady* (1956) - Cal - Texas Rancher
- *The Rack* (1956) - Law Officer
- *Edge of the City* (1957) - George Nordmann
- *Spring Reunion* (1957) - Harry Brewster

- *Steve Canyon* (1958) - Col. Hampton (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0051317/fullcredits/?ref_=tt_cl_sm) - Season 1/Episode 12: "Pilot Error"
- *Gunman's Walk* (1958) - Sheriff Harry Brill
- *The Buccaneer* (1958) - Captain Brown
- *Compulsion* (1959) - Police Lieutenant Johnson
- *Face of Fire* (1959) - The Judge
- *The Last Angry Man* (1959) - Lyman Gattling
- *Operation Petticoat* (1959) - Captain J.B. Henderson
- *Pay or Die* (1960) - Police Commissioner
- *The Facts of Life* (1960) - Motel Clerk
- *The Wizard of Baghdad* (1960) - Shamadin
- *Tess of the Storm Country* (1960) - Mr. Graves
- *Sea Hunt* (1961, Season 4, Episodes: 14 & 35) - Dr.Tomaso Ricou / Professor Aaron Halliday
- *Straightaway* (1962, Episodes "Sounds of Fury") - Venable
- *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962) - Handy Strong
- *The Spiral Road* (1962) - Dr. Martens
- *Wall of Noise* (1963) - Dave McRaab
- *A New Kind of Love* (1963) - Bertram Chalmers, Sherman's Boss
- *Captain Newman, M.D.* (1963) - Lieutenant Colonel M.B. Larrabee
- *Fate Is the Hunter* (1964) - Proctor
- *Across the River* (1965) - Policeman
- *Blindfold* (1966) - Police Lieutenant
- *The Reluctant Astronaut* (1967) - Cervantes
- *Private Duty Nurses* (1971) - Dr. Sutton
- *Hawaii Five-O* (1975, Episode "Computer Killer") - Hugh Tilles
- *Spider-Man Strikes Back* (1978) - J. Jonah Jameson

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Television portal

References

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3. "Robert F. Simon" (https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/robert-f-simon-78535). *Internet Broadway Database*. The Broadway League. Archived (https://archive.today/202010160253

54/https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/robert-f-simon-78535) from the original on October 16, 2020. Retrieved October 16, 2020.
4. "Robert Simon; Specialized in Character Roles" (https://www.newspapers.com/clip/61187393/robert-f-simon/). *The Los Angeles Times*. December 3, 1992. p. A 42. Retrieved October 16, 2020 – via Newspapers.com.
5. Terrace, Vincent (2011). *Encyclopedia of Television Shows, 1925 through 2010* (2nd ed.). Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers. pp. 34–35. ISBN 978-0-7864-6477-7.
6. "Robert F. Simon" (https://variety.com/1992/scene/people-news/robert-f-simon-101781/). *Variety*. December 2, 1992. Archived (https://archive.today/20201016033850/https://variety.com/1992/scene/people-news/robert-f-simon-101781/) from the original on October 16, 2020. Retrieved October 16, 2020.

External links

- Robert F. Simon (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0800359/) at IMDb
- Robert F. Simon (https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/78535) at the Internet Broadway Database
- Robert F. Simon (http://www.lortel.org/LLA_archive/index.cfm?search_by=people&first=Robert%20&last=Simon&middle=F.) at Internet Off-Broadway Database

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